

Indefiniteness Rejection

Claim 11 has been rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC second paragraph in that Claim 11 refers to a “sample application pad” which the Examiner states has no antecedent basis.

As amended, the remaining claim speaks of a “sample application zone” has set forth in independent Claim 1.

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, 12, 16, and 18 to 21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of US 4,956,302 to Gordon *et alia* combined with US 4,594,327 to Zuk.

The Examiner has further noted that Claims 6 and 17 would be allowable if written in an independent form.

Response

Applicants have amended the claims to incorporate the features of Claim 6 and 17 in an independent form.

Summary

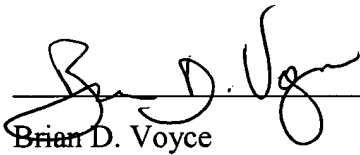
In summation, Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 16, and 18 to 22 are not obvious, and allowance is requested. Applicants note that the cancellation of certain of the claims does not connote agreement with the Examiner as to the arguments presented by the Examiner.

Serial Number 09/927,965

Amendment

If the Examiner has any further questions or reservations regarding this Amendment, Applicants request that the Examiner call their attorney at 919-968-6306.

Respectfully Submitted:


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Date: 